

Table A - STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELIMINATION OF CATEGORICAL WAIVERS CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED BY NORTH COAST REGIONAL WATER BOARD RESOLUTION NOS. 87-113, 89-131, and 92-135

Current Waiver Category	Current Waiver Conditions	Preliminary Staff Recommendation to Regional Water Board
Drilling muds (Not geothermal drilling muds)	Discharges to sumps with at least 2-feet of freeboard. Sump must be dried by evaporation or pumping. Drilling muds may remain in sump only if discharger demonstrates it is inert waste. Sump area shall be restored to preconstruction state within 60 days of completion or abandonment of well.	General Waste Discharge Requirements should be developed and used in lieu of a categorical waiver. The current categorical waiver for Drilling Muds should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Clean Oils	Used for beneficial purposes such as dust control, weed control, and mosquito abatement, where water quality will not be adversely impacted and where oil cannot reach State waters.	Weed control and mosquito abatement applications are now covered by Statewide General Permits. Waivers or waste discharge requirements are not required for other applications which do not generate wastes and do not adversely impact water quality. The current categorical waiver for Clean Oils should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Inert Solid Wastes (non-water soluble, non-decomposable, non-hazardous, i.e. earth, rock, concrete, etc.)	Small-scale operations using good disposal and erosion control practices. Complies with California Administrative Code, Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 15, Section 2524.	A General Permit should be developed and used for future discharges of inert solid wastes. The current categorical waiver for Inert Solid Wastes should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03. Note: Current waiver conditions are no longer applicable, as the reference to Subchapter 15 is out of date.

Erosion from Minor Construction Projects	Operation complies with the Basin Plan and BMPs have been formulated and implemented	This waiver category is now covered by statewide regulations for storm water. The current waiver category for Erosion from Construction Projects should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Pesticide Rinse Waters from Applicators	Discharger complies with "Pesticides Guidance Document" (SWRCB), January 26, 1982 and with California Administrative Code, Title 23, Chapter 3, Subchapter 15.	The current waiver category for Pesticide Rinse Waters from Applicators should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03. Note: The current waiver conditions are no longer applicable as the reference to the California Administrative Code is outdated. Site-specific waste discharge requirements should be adopted for future projects, as appropriate.
Minor Stream Channel Alterations and Suction Dredging	Regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game	This waiver category is now covered by the 401-Certification Program. Where appropriate, site-specific waste discharge requirements should be adopted. The current waiver category for Minor Stream Channel Alterations and Suction Dredging should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Small Mining Operations	Operations confined to land and toxic materials are not used in recovery operations, and no water quality impacts are anticipated.	The current waiver category for Small Mining Operations should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03. Site -specific waste discharge requirements should be adopted for future projects, as appropriate.

Minor Hydro Projects	Operation under Water Rights Permit from SWRCB or Department of Fish and Game conditions, and no water quality impacts are anticipated, and CEQA documents are prepared.	This waiver category is now covered by the 401-Certification Program and statewide regulations for storm water. The current waiver category for Minor Hydro Projects should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Irrigation Return Waters	Operations meet Basin Plan objectives for turbidity, discharge is not toxic to fish and wildlife, and no water quality impacts are anticipated.	Terminate categorical waiver for Irrigation Return Waters before 1-1-03 pending guidance from SWB and RWB. Regulation in the interim should be case-specific.
Projects Requiring Water Quality Certification	Project (normally minor construction) is not expected to have a significant water quality impact, and project complies with Department of Fish and Game conditions, and CEQA documents are prepared or are not required.	This waiver category is now covered by the 401-Certification Program. The statewide General Permit for Wetlands and Fill (under development) will apply when wetlands are involved. The current waiver category for Projects Requiring Water Quality Certification should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.
Dewatering at Construction Projects	Activity will not last more than 60 days, and no pollutants are present, and there is no discharge to surface waters.	This category of waste is now covered by a General Permit. The current waiver category for Dewatering at Construction Projects should be terminated or allowed to expire effective 1-1-03.